

**Mail Appeal.**  
**RECEIVED.**  
**JACKSON, MISS.**  
 THURSDAY EVENING, APRIL 10

**REPORTED DEFEAT OF BANKS.**  
 A private telegram received to-day from Port Hudson, Louisiana, announcing the arrival of some ladies at that point direct from New Orleans, who state that when they left the city rumors were current that BANKS had been reported by SHERIDAN, at Bernier's Bay. The reports in circulation were somewhat circumstantial, and to the effect that BANKS made the attack on SHERIDAN, and was defeated and driven back to Thibodaux, and had expressed to New Orleans for surgeons and medical supplies to be immediately forwarded to him.

**GEN. BANK HONORABLE SPEECH.**  
 We publish this evening, entire, the speech of General SAM HONORABLE, of Texas, delivered at the city of Houston, on the 15th of March last. We feel that it will be read with deep interest by every one, not only in the South, but also in the North. The reputation of the South here is commensurate with the limits of the continent, and whatever falls from his lips at this time in reference to great public affairs, cannot fail to attract attention. It is a most excellent address, and does honor both to the head and patriotic heart of the author.

**THE RIVER.**  
 The information at headquarters in this city, as to the movements on the upper river, comes with that conveyed by our special dispatch from Savannah, published this morning. The universal opinion at Memphis, at latest advices, was that the withdrawal of the Yankee army from their camp opposite Vicksburg was only a ruse of strategy.

Reports have also been received that a heavy movement is on foot, which commenced on Thursday last, and that it has been determined by the enemy to make a direct assault on Vicksburg. To compose a part of the attacking force, the Federal troops lately at Lake Providence have gone down the river.

**THE STRATEGY OF WAR.**  
 The late movements of the enemy on the lower river—the withdrawal of Banks from the mouth of the Mississippi, the attack on Port Hudson, and the withdrawal of GRANT up the river with a portion of his forces after his failure in the Yazoo pass expedition, and their subsequent return—such as a new lesson in the strategy of war. It was thought that BANKS had gone off on a thieving expedition in the Yazoo country, while GRANT was regarded as having been sent to the assistance of BOWEN. The demonstrations upon Vicksburg and Port Hudson were considered as having terminated for the season.

But our dispatches this morning, both from above and below, place new phases upon affairs. BANKS has returned to Baton Rouge, while GRANT has made his appearance both above and below Port Hudson, and even at this moment may be biding his time. It is also evident, both from the tone of our special dispatch from above, as well as from the letter of our Vicksburg correspondent, that GRANT has returned to Vicksburg, and the impression seems to prevail in Memphis that an early direct attack upon the city will be made. The critical moment would seem indeed to have suddenly and unexpectedly come upon us. The movements of both BANKS and GRANT was a mere ruse, designed no doubt to throw our commanding generals off their guard, and induce them to draw off their forces from Port Hudson, and to leave the city in a state of defenseless. To what extent our forces have been weakened at this point we know not. We hope not very materially. We presume our generals have had an eye to future contingencies, and that our preparations are ample to repel the foe whenever the attack shall be made.

**THE VICKSBURG FIGHT.**  
 The Vicksburg flag, yesterday morning, corrected the impression which it says prevails, that the whole of the Yankee force on the west side of the river is on the move. Ten or twelve transports, with their crews, and a few companies of troops are still visible below Young's point, and it is likely, says that journal, some of them will remain there for weeks, perhaps months yet. The flag also adds: A heavy battery is said to be in course of construction behind the "cross levee" which runs east and west, a short distance from the river, on the peninsula between the harbor of playing on one side and the city on the other. We have looked in vain for this battery with a spy glass, but are nevertheless assured that it is being built and masked in front with willows. The Yankees, it is said, work at night, and are placing some of the heaviest cannon in it. It is this battery, which we are told, came from a recent shipment with the army, and it is said that GRANT has no immediate intention of leaving this point altogether.

So long as the river remains high, his troops would be perfectly safe on the levee, and by keeping them there he would of course interfere with our arrangements considerably. A battery being sent to the mouth of the Mississippi, and the fact that GRANT has no immediate intention of leaving this point altogether.

**THE VICTORY.**  
 The Richmond correspondent of the Knoxville Register writes to-day for the first time in the history of legislation in the Confederate States, the veto of the President has been overruled by the Senate. The President had disapproved an act, creating a pension or organization of an auxiliary regiment or brigade in Charleston, and the senate has overruled his veto. I have read neither the act nor the message, but it seems to me that the veto was a gross error. We have looked in vain for this battery with a spy glass, but are nevertheless assured that it is being built and masked in front with willows. The Yankees, it is said, work at night, and are placing some of the heaviest cannon in it. It is this battery, which we are told, came from a recent shipment with the army, and it is said that GRANT has no immediate intention of leaving this point altogether.

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**LETTER FROM RICHMOND.**

Special Correspondence of the Memphis Appeal.

As you may suppose, I have been very busy for the last forty-eight hours in consequence of the arrival of the enemy's special force. The result is an exceedingly interesting narrative. The attack, which was made on the 15th of March, was a most successful one. The Yankees were defeated, and driven back to Thibodaux, and had expressed to New Orleans for surgeons and medical supplies to be immediately forwarded to him.

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**Letter from the Charleston Courier.**

James G. Gibbs, Esq., of Columbia, has arrived from abroad, bringing with him machinery for making guns and other purposes. We are indebted to him for this foreign prize.

The OTCION QUESTION.—At a meeting called of the major portion of the leading planters of Lancaster District, held at the court house, on Monday last, it was unanimously resolved to plant no more than one acre of cotton to the field hand the present year.

From Nassau.—The steamer Ella and Annie, Capt. James Carlin, ran the blockade successfully through the enemy's fleet of his port, and reached this city. She brings dates from Nassau to the 4th inst., but we see nothing of much importance in the papers. The British steamers Gertrude and Eagle, schooner J. M. Prince, sloops Express and Richard, all from this place, steamer Charleston from Savannah, and schooner Convey from Wilmington, N. C., had all arrived at Nassau.

We learn that nine of the Rebel Troop, or Somo scouts, were surprised Friday morning, by a party of our soldiers, near the mouth of North Elisha, and taken prisoner. The information was brought by two negro servants attached to the party, who were taken to the city, and were taken there over the bar, and the dead approach of the white militia army is probably postponed for a few days only.

The STEAMER FRANK, a schooner, was captured by the Union fleet, and taken to the city. She brings dates from Nassau to the 4th inst., but we see nothing of much importance in the papers. The British steamers Gertrude and Eagle, schooner J. M. Prince, sloops Express and Richard, all from this place, steamer Charleston from Savannah, and schooner Convey from Wilmington, N. C., had all arrived at Nassau.

A TRANSPORT DESTROYED.—A correspondent at Port Antonio gives the following account of the destruction of the transport ship, the "Cassidy." On the afternoon of the 15th, while at dress parade, and while the echoes of the victorious guns at Charleston were dying away along the shore, a large fire ship, the "Cassidy," was ordered to be set on fire immediately, as our service was needed down below on the river. The fire ship was set on fire, and the transport ship was destroyed.

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**GENERAL HONORABLE SPEECH.**

Delivered at the city of Houston, Texas, March 15, 1863.

LADIES AND FELLOW CITIZENS: With feelings of pleasure and friendly greeting, I once again stand before you as a representative of my country. I hold this place with a sense of responsibility, and I feel that I have a duty to perform. I feel that I have a duty to perform.

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